

REMARKS:

This paper is in response to the Office Action dated June 18, 2004. In that Office Action, which was indicated as FINAL, the disposition of claims was as follows:

Claims 33-37, 47 and 58-69 are allowed;

Claims 25, 26, 28, 29 and 52-57 are objected to; and

Claims 12-24, 27, 30-32, 38-46 and 48-51 are rejected.

In light of the FINAL nature of the Office Action, Applicant has elected to place the present application in condition for allowance by accepting the allowed claims, rewriting the objected to claims in independent form (thus placing them in condition for allowance), and canceling the rejected claims, without prejudice.

Regarding Claims 12-24, 27, 30-32, 38-46 and 48-51.

These claims have been cancelled hereby, while traversing the grounds for rejection. That is, while Applicant has cancelled these claims, Applicant does not agree with the grounds for rejections stated in the Office Action and the Applicant does not concede that the stated grounds for rejection, including but not limited to the interpretation of the stated references and/or the application of the art to the cancelled claims are valid or appropriate. Applicant reserves the right to dispute and argue against the same or similar rejections, and to present claims which are the same or similar to those cancelled hereby, in continuing or other applications before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and/or in a court of law.

Regarding Claims 25, 28, 52 and 55 (and new Claims 70-73).

These Claims 25, 28, 52 and 55 were "objected to" in the Office Action and indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the basic claim and any intervening claims. In accordance therewith, Applicant has rewritten Claims 25, 28, 52 and 55 in independent form as new independent Claims 70, 71, 72 and 73, respectively. It is submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Regarding Claims 26, 29, 53, 54, 56 and 57.

These dependent claims have been amended hereby in order that they remain dependent upon allowable claims which are those claims rewritten as new independent Claims 70-73. These Claims 26, 29, 53, 54, 56 and 57 are therefore asserted to be allowable and such allowance is hereby earnestly solicited.

Regarding Claims 33-37, 47 and 58-69.

These Claims 33-37, 47 and 58-69 were indicated in the Office Action as being allowed and are submitted to remain allowable. Such allowance of these claims is also earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

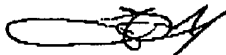
Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration of all remaining claims 26, 29, 33-37, 47, 53, 54 and 56-73 and an early indication of allowance. Applicant welcomes a telephone call to the undersigned attorney if such a call might assist with resolving issues and moving this case to allowance.

The undersigned cordially requests the Examiner to call to discuss any items that might be helpful in moving this case to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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